Burch Continues Attack on Impeachment Move

Committee's Fairness Hit

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SAN CLEMENTE, July 20—Presidential counselor Dean Burch [illegible] called the House [illegible] Committee's impeachment proceedings [illegible] jurisprudence.

[illegible] daily White House [illegible] called [illegible] committee [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] said [illegible] announced [illegible] counsel James D. St. Clair would hold a news conference Monday.

"What we are now seeing," Burch said, "is the reaping of the whirlwind whereby bad procedures are almost sure to give bad results."

The committee has insisted on secrecy in its hearings, but has leaked material detrimental to the President, embargoed stories to produce daily headlines crit- [illegible] President [illegible] hearing, St. Clair out of the committee room as it [illegible] for televised hearings, Burch said.

Burch expressed confidence that the full House would reject a move to impeach the President.

[illegible] White House strategy [illegible] to challenge the fairness and [illegible] of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) [illegible] on the floor.

Asked whether the President believed the committee [illegible] as saying his role was to make sure Rodino doesn't get too damn fair. "[illegible] has succeeded," Burch said.

Ziegler argued that President Nixon's remark in a White House transcript of a March 22, 1973, tape that a Watergate defendant got a 35-year sentence was a reflection of speculation in the press. No sentences were handed down until March 23.

Ziegler said there was much speculation in the press before March 22 that the defendants could receive long sentences.

On Jan. 31, all the networks and wire services reported that [illegible] defendants would be sentenced to between 35 and [illegible] years, Ziegler said.

There were subsequent stories speculating on how long the sentences might be, the press secretary said.

However, Ziegler did not explain why Mr. Nixon spoke in the past tense on March 22 about the sentencing that did not occur until the next day.

In the transcript presented Thursday by St. Clair to the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Nixon is quoted as saying on March 22, 1973, "That, uh, judge gave him 35 years."

It was not clear from the edited White House transcript, which consisted of 2½ pages of excerpts of a one-hour, 24-minute conversation between Mr. Nixon and his then-chief of staff, H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, whether the President was referring to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica's sentencing of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. or G. Gordon Liddy. Immediately before Mr. Nixon's comment in the transcript, Haldeman had been discussing Liddy.

On March 23, 1973, Sirica gave Hunt a provisional [illegible] years [illegible] and Liddy [illegible] years and eight months [illegible].

Mr. Nixon's use of the past tense on March 22 is [illegible] puzzling because the White House transcript of a conversation between Mr. Nixon and Haldeman and then with White House counsel John W. Dean III on March 21, 1973—two days before the sentencing—made several references to it as a future event.

At one point Dean says, "We don't know what they will be sentenced to. There's always a chance—"

The President interrupts, "Thirty years, isn't it?"

Dean: "It could be. You know, they haven't announced yet, but it—"

President—"Top is 30 years, isn't it?"

Dean—"It is even higher than that. It is about 50 years. It all—"

President—"So ridiculous."

At another point Dean says, "Well, so much depends on how Sirica sentences. He can sentence in a way that makes parole even impossible."

And Mr. Nixon replies, "He can."

Confusion Liddy-Hunt